

The Morning Astorian.

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NO. 139

NOT ONLY

A SALE

OURS IS A

SLAUGHTER

No use to specify, every article in the store (excepting Monarch Shirts, Collars and Carhart Overalls and Jumpers) slaughtered.

MAKE NO MISTAKE

Ours is

THE SALE

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CLOTHIER-HATTER

SALE Begins Monday, Dec. 30
Ends Friday, Jan. 31

Drop Head
Sewing Machines \$17.50

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Blank Books, Office and Pocket Dairies,

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GRIFFIN & REED, COMMERCIAL ST.,
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Fancy and Staple Groceries

FLOUR, FEED, PROVISIONS,
TOBACCO AND CIGARS.....

Supplies of all kinds at lowest rates, for fishermen,
Farmers and Loggers.

A. V. ALLEN, Tenth and Commercial Streets

PLAN TO DEFEAT PROPOSED MERGER

Legal Action Will at Once Be Instituted in Minnesota Courts With This Object in View.

ASK CONGRESS INVESTIGATE

Conference of Governors Finish Work and They Have Returned to Their Homes—All Are Gratified.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 31.—A definite plan of action to defeat the proposed consolidation of the Northern Pacific, Great Northern and Burlington railway systems was today unanimously agreed upon by the governors and attorney generals of five of the Northwest states in which these roads have mileage. Legal action will be instituted immediately in Minnesota courts, with this object in view, and to quote Attorney General Douglas of Minnesota: "The thing will be fought to a finish." Just how, when or where these suits will be brought, neither Governor Van Sant of Minnesota nor Attorney General Douglas would state. The conference adjourned late this afternoon after adopting resolutions condemning the proposed merger as contrary to sound public policy, and pledging support to any proper legal action which may be brought to test its validity. Other resolutions adopted call on congress to investigate the subject and favor granting of power to the interstate commerce commission to fix maximum rates upon interstate business. Governor Van Sant and most of the other state officials who have been present at the conference left tonight for their homes.

Governor Van Sant expressed himself as much gratified over the result of the meeting which had been requested by him. "So far as I am concerned," said he after the meeting adjourned, "I am thoroughly satisfied with the work of the meeting. It accomplished all that could be desired, and I am very much pleased."

A MODEL CITY.

Will Be a Feature of the St. Louis World's Fair.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Howard J. Rogers, chief of the department of education and social economy of the St. Louis World's Fair, is in New York to confer with the special committee which is planning the "model city" feature of the fair. The committee consists of Charles C. Haight, John DeWitt Warner, Charles R. Lamb, Albert Kelsey of Philadelphia and William S. Crandall. The administration building, it is said, will be taken as the municipal center of the model city and around it will be grouped some of the most important administrative buildings found in a well developed city.

Mr. Rogers has invited the special committee to meet Ex-Governor Francis and other exposition authorities at a conference in St. Louis January 6, when definite plans will be settled upon.

BUYING WARSHIPS

Argentine and Chile Purchasing Vessels in England.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Both Chile and Argentina are eagerly negotiating for the purchase of warships in Great Britain, says the London correspondent of the Tribune. Chile has, it is said, been lucky enough to acquire two torpedo boat destroyers now being built on the Thames to the order of Brazil, which latter country has been tempted by the good price offered to sell. Argentina has a large cruiser on the stocks at Elswick, but it cannot be delivered until next summer.

MASSACRE CONFIRMED.

Christian Converts Were Massacred by Chinese Troops.

PEKIN, Dec. 31.—The Gazette publishes an edict recounting the massacre at Ning Sha Foo, in Kan So Province, where a missionary and a number of Christian converts were reported to have been killed, supposedly by troops under command of General Tong, and ordering Chinese officials to pursue and punish the guilty outlaw. According to an unaffirmed report which has reached the Belgian legation, another missionary near Ning Sha Foo has been massacred.

The second edict degrades the magistrate and other Chinese officials with in whose jurisdiction the massacre occurred, but retains them in office until the murderers shall have been secured. Unless they succeed in apprehending the guilty persons, they are forbidden in perpetuity to hold office. This edict will doubtless result in the punishment of somebody, whether guilty or not.

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HANNA-FORAKER

Fight Between Ohio Republicans Has Become Acute.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 31.—The fight between the Hanna and Foraker factions for control of the Ohio legislature became acute in Cincinnati today. The result of today's conference was in favor of Foraker, in that two Toledo men gave their pledge to support the Foraker program.

At a meeting of Hamilton county delegates tonight the three senators and ten representatives voted unanimously to support the Foraker candidates in the organization of the legislature. After the meeting a statement was given out that the pending contest was not one between Foraker and Hanna themselves for supremacy in Ohio.

MINERS KILLED

Accidental Discharge With Fatal Effects.

BAKER CITY, Dec. 31.—Homer E. Eaton and Chris Snider, two miners working in the Union-Companion mine near Cornucopia, were instantly killed by the accidental discharge of a blast this morning. The real cause of the accident will never be known as no one else was near at the time and both men were instantly killed. They were working with a machine drill and it is thought they struck a blast that had not exploded when previous shot was fired.

ACTION DEFERRED.

No Further Step in German-Venezuelan Negotiations Till January 2.

BERLIN, Dec. 31.—Herr Dr. O. Schmidt-Haasda, German minister to Venezuela, arrives at Caracas about January 2, nothing will be done by the German chargé d'affaires there to press President Castro further. Dr. Schmidt-Haasda bears instructions from his government. The carrying out of the successive steps outlined in these instructions will end his executive measures.

CUBAN ELECTIONS

Nationalists Had Only Ticket in the Field.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Dec. 31.—The elections passed off today without notable incident. The Nationalist was the only ticket in the field and consequently it was elected.

LIGHT VOTE POLLED.

HAVANA, Dec. 31.—Election returns have not yet been received here. Indications promise a light vote. Partisans of Maso in Havana, did not vote.

EMBEZZLER PARDONED.

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 31.—Governor Savage tonight granted an unconditional pardon to Joseph S. Bartley, ex-state treasurer, who five years ago was sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary on conviction of having embezzled \$200,000 state funds. His entire shortage is alleged to have been \$250,000, but he was convicted on a single count of embezzling \$200,000.

EXPANSION ENORMOUS

INCREASE OF PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF U.S.

Improved Methods of Work, Organization and Wise Economies the Cause.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Dun's Review will say on January 4:

Most marvelous of all phenomenal evidences of the advancement in business during the year was the progress made in manufacturing. It is impossible to be too extravagant in delineating movements of the industrial world. Never in the history of this or any other nation has such development occurred within a space of twelve months. Expansion of productive capacity was enormous; improved methods of work and organization were conspicuous. Wise economies were introduced, but more than all other factors that made for permanent prosperity was conservative resistance to price inflation.

BOLD ROBBERY.

SEATTLE, Dec. 31.—In the presence of a crowd tonight a thief hurled a coupling pin through the window of Mayer & Bros' jewelry store and through the broken glass seized a tray of diamonds worth \$1000, and successfully made his escape.

ORGANIZATION OF OIL INTERESTS

Plans Forming to Establish Central Exchange for Northwest States at Salt Lake.

HEAD OFF DENVER MOVEMENT

Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Utah, Contain Almost Entire Oil Territory of the Northwest.

SALT LAKE, Dec. 31.—Steps are being taken to organize the oil interests of the Northwest states, with headquarters at Salt Lake. This action is deemed imperative by reason of steps recently taken at Denver looking toward the centralization at that point of all Western oil interests. In view of the fact that the states of Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Utah contain practically the entire oil territory in the Northwest, those most interested claim that the control of such industry should be centered at a principal city adjacent to prominent oil fields. With this object in view it is proposed to hold a meeting in this city at an early date when definite action will be taken on the proposition of establishing a central oil exchange in Salt Lake.

JOHN J. VALENTINE'S WILL.

Wife of \$100,000 Estate Left to the Widow and Children.

OAKLAND, Dec. 31.—The will of John J. Valentine, late president of Wells Fargo & Co., who died on December 21, leaving an estate valued at \$100,000, has been presented for probate by the Union Trust Company, which is named to act as executor. The will bequeathed the bulk of the estate to the widow, Mrs. Alice B. M. Valentine, and seven children. Four children by a former wife have interests in life insurance policies aggregating \$17,500.

The Union Trust Company was granted special letters of administration, pending the probate of the will, which provides that the bequests left to all of the children shall be held and managed by that company until the youngest child attains his majority.

TO AID MEMORIAL FUND.

Contributions to Be Made in All the Churches January 29.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—At a meeting of the McKinley Memorial Fund Association in this city a suggestion was made that special collections for the fund be taken in all churches January 29, the anniversary of President McKinley's birth. The suggestion will, in all probability, be favorably acted upon by the local McKinley memorial organization.

TWO CATTLEMEN KILLED.

Murdered by Mexicans Who Have Fled Across the Border.

BISHOP, Ariz., Dec. 31.—News has reached here of the killing of George Ashton and Cam Benningfield, well-known cattlemen, by Mexican woodchoppers in the Huachuca mountains. The trouble grew out of Benningfield's efforts to renege with the Mexicans, who were shooting holes in his tent. The Mexicans escaped to the border line, pursued by the dead cattlemen's friends.

FOR AN OPEN RIVER.

LEWISTON, Ida., Dec. 31.—The Lewiston Commercial Club tonight wired Charles Francis Adams, Boston, asking him to act as Idaho representative at Washington in presenting the open river undertaking to congress. Adams is a heavy property owner in Lewiston.

WIDEN CHICAGO RIVER.

Channel 200 Feet Wide Will Be Secured by Proposed Improvement.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—The Chicago river is to be widened to a 200 foot channel between Lake and Van Buren streets. A strip of land varying from 15 to 60 feet is to be condemned on the west bank of the stream. The long disputed question of which side of the river would be cut away has been finally settled by officials of the board of sanitary trustees. The approximate cost of this long desired improvement will be \$1,500,000.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company will be one of the greatest sufferers. The property of the corporation fronts the dock line south of Madison street and three companies freight houses terminal facilities and right of way

will be interfered with. Several other properties will be injured as a result of the condemnations and heavy damage suits are expected to follow. These have been taken into account, however, in the estimated cost.

TO PREVENT FRAUD.

Proposal to Brand Turf Horses Horses to Stop Fraud of Ringing.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Charles M. Jewett, secretary of the New England Trotting Horse Breeders' Association, will advocate at the coming congress of the National Trotting Association a system of branding harness horses to prevent the long prevailing fraud of ringing. This system of fixing the identity of trotting horses has been used many years on large stock farms where hundreds of horses are raised. It is said Aspin, 2:04; Arion, 1:57; Sunol, 2:04; Elata, 2:04; Cobweb, 2:12, and other famous trotters bred at the late Governor Stanford's stud farm in California are branded under their manes with numbers which are registered in the private catalogue at Palo Alto, along with the name, age, description and pedigree of each horse. By means of these numbers a horse bred at Palo Alto may be easily identified, no matter where found.

MANCHURIAN TREATY.

Russian Government Refuses to Amend Document.

PEKIN, Dec. 31.—The Chinese court will proceed by train from Pao Ting to Peking January 7. The Russian minister to China, M. Paul Lessor, has informed the Chinese plenipotentiaries, Prince Ching and Wong Wen Shao, that the Russian government will refuse to amend the Manchurian treaty, and the situation is practically a deadlock.

VIOLATED CIVIL SERVICE.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 31.—President Roosevelt has formally demanded the resignation of Lavis A. Nunn, collector of internal revenue of the Fifth district of Tennessee. Alleged violation of civil service regulations in the discharge of a clerk is said to be the cause.

NOW A BANK PRESIDENT.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—President James Cogan, of the Borough of Manhattan, upon his retirement from public office today, accepted the presidency of the Broadway National bank, a bank just being organized in this city.

GUESTS OF MR. BENNETT.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—A dispatch to the Journal and American from Beauharnais says that Chauncey M. Depew and wife are the guests of James Gordon Bennett at that place.

TWO ARMORED VESSELS.

BUENOS AYRES, Dec. 31.—Argentina has entered into contracts with shipyards in Italy for the immediate construction of two armored vessels of 3500 tons at a cost of 17,000,000 francs each.

INCREASED WAGES.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 31.—The Great Northern Railroad Company today increased the wages of all engineers and firemen on the road.

REGARDS WITH ANXIETY

DISPUTE BETWEEN GERMANY AND VENEZUELA.

English Capitalists Apprehensive as to Attitude That May Be Adopted by U. S.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—The outcome of the dispute between Germany and Venezuela is regarded with anxiety in England, cables the London correspondent of the Tribune and console which Mr. Gladstone once described as the most intelligent of all things inanimate, fell three-sixteenths on apprehension as to the attitude that may be adopted by America. There are at least three railways in Venezuela which have been constructed by British capital and the English shareholders are watching with anxious interest for the sequel to the present disturbed state of the country. Information which is reaching London from the representatives of the various companies is of a very scanty nature. So far it would seem the English property has not been seized, but it is feared that this immunity will not be long.

In Venezuelan circles in London President Castro is blamed for present disorders. He is accused of having sacrificed the peace and prosperity of his country to his own personal pride, and an improvement is not looked for until he has been deposed.

TEMPORARY WRIT IS DISSOLVED

Injunction Against Retiring Northern Pacific Preferred Stock Was of Short Duration.

ACTING WITHIN ITS CHARTER

Nothing in Case Presented to Indicate That an Attempt Was Being Made to Form Consolidation or Merger.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 31.—Judge William Lochren of the United States circuit court, today dissolved the temporary injunction issued in the case of Peter Power against the Northern Pacific Railway Company by Judge Elliott, of the district court of Hennepin county Monday. The injunction which was dissolved by order of Judge Lochren restrained the Northern Pacific from issuing any evidences of indebtedness to retire the preferred stock of the company or to retire preferred stock in any other manner than by use of the surplus net earnings of the road. It also restrained the Northern Pacific and its officers from entering into any agreement, ordering any act by which the road would be consolidated or merged, through the medium of the Northern Securities Company, with the Great Northern or Burlington or either of them. After the decision was made orally by Judge Lochren an effort was made by the plaintiff's attorney to have the court fix the amount of bond which would be required in order to appeal from the decision and to stay all further proceedings in the lower court pending an appeal. Judge Lochren refused to allow a supersedeas bond in any amount to be given. Judge Lochren held that the Northern Pacific was acting within the authority of its charter or contract entered into between it and its stockholders as incorporated in the certificates of preferred stock and of the agreement entered into November 13 in attempting to retire \$75,000,000 of preferred stock in the manner alleged by Power. He also held that railroad corporations could not do indirectly what the law prevented them from doing directly, and that any method by which a consolidation of two or more competing parallel lines would be brought about would be illegal and a writ of injunction would be to restrain consummation of the plan; but that there was nothing in the case as presented to him that would indicate that the stockholders of the Northern Pacific Railway Company were attempting such consolidation or merger.

CHAPLAIN'S TROUBLES.

Uniform of Chaplains in the Army Looks Ridiculous.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Troubles of chaplains in the United States navy were discussed by the Rev. Dr. George E. S. Trowbridge of Stamford, Conn., at the recent Methodist ministers meeting in this city. The claim was made that their salaries are insufficient. He also found fault with the uniform, which he described as a "single breasted, shad-bellied, long tailed frock coat such as is worn by clergymen in some foreign countries but which simply looks ridiculous here."

He said that at the opening of the Kiel canal, when the Kaiser passed through the line of warships, the chaplain on the American ship was ordered below because of his grotesque appearance.

MYSTERIOUS WAKEFIELD.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Considerable amusement has been caused in England by the knowledge that F. Wakefield, who is stated to have rented Ditton Park can only be identified with a Wakefield now in prison in the United States, says the London correspondent of the Tribune. But the estate's agents who let Ditton Park regard the matter in a very serious light. They declare positively that the place has been let to Curtis Wakefield. His references, they say, were second to none, but if his character is not satisfactory their client will not accept him as a tenant. Curtis Wakefield, who secured the lease of Ditton Park, is believed to have left Southampton last Friday week for America.

WHEAT MARKET.

PORTLAND, Dec. 31.—Wheat, Walla Walla, 62; bluestem, 62.
TACOMA, Dec. 31.—Wheat, bluestem, 63; club, 62.